

USSN: 10/727,487
Art unit 3742
Examiner Campbell

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim amendment

Claims 11-17 are identical to the claims originally filed. Claims 1 and 5-7 were allowed in the notice of allowance dated September 8, 2006, and are not further treated here.

Claims 8, 9 and 10 and 18, 19 and 20 are new claims that present additional features found in the disclosure.

Upon receipt of the notice of allowance, the applicant re-reviewed the allowed claims and the cited reference and determined that the claims were narrowed more than was required to overcome the cited reference.

In the official action of April 10, 2006, claims 1, 2 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Geers. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. These claims are now claims 11, 12 and 14-17.

Claim 11 requires a sensor for providing a signal indicative of flow of gas from the tank; and a processor responsive to the sensor signal and communicating with the heater, the processor being configured to energize the heater with power from the power source when gas flows from the tank. Geers does not disclose or suggest these claim elements.

Geers does not teach heating the tank when gas flows from the tank. While Geers specifies and mentions throughout his disclosure a pressure sensor in particular to control the heater, the pressure control is primarily for the purpose of stopping heating when the pressure is too high (abstract, line 9, and col. 2, lines 20-22). Likewise, Geers' temperature sensor is sensitive to high temperature for the purpose of turning off the heater when the temperature of the water in an enclosure around the tank is too high (col. 2, lines 13-17). Control of the heater when the pressure differential between the tank S and tank R becomes too low appears to be achieved manually (col. 5, lines 32-35), and in any event does not comprise sensing gas flow and

USSN: 10/727,487
Art unit 3742
Examiner Campbell

activating the heater when gas flow occurs from the tank. Geers only controls onset of the heater based on a pressure differential set point (col. 5, lines 60-62).

Therefore, Geers does not disclose or suggest the same thing as claimed in claims 11, 12 and 14-17. Hence, claims 11, 12 and 14-17 are patentable over Geers.

In the official action of April 10, 2006, claim 3 (now claim 13) was rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Geers. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Claim 13 requires a sensor that "detects a difference in temperature of the tank from ambient temperature as indicative that flow of gas from the tank is occurring". Geers does not disclose or suggest this claim element. Claim 13 is equivalent to allowed claim 1 and therefore will not be further discussed here.

Claims 15-17 are additionally patentable due to their differences from Geers. Geers has nothing to do with the art of heating propane or LPG tanks at remote oil industry sites. Geers relates only to re-charging of refrigeration units.

Claims 8-10 and 18-20 are additionally patentable over Geers, since Geers is not relevant to heating of propane or LPG cylinders with portable heaters.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted, and certified as being faxed to the USPTO on Nov. 23/06.

Anthony R. Lambert
Anthony R. Lambert
Agent of Record
Registration no. 32,813
Customer no. 020212
Telephone 780-448-7326